

In the Specification:

On page 4, please replace the first full paragraph with the following paragraph. Strike-out text indicates deleted text and underlining indicates added text.

--The software may transition, as indicated at 34, from the disconnected state 18 to the connected state 20 in response to an appropriate discovery response 28 received over the network from nodes 22, ~~as indicated at 34~~. Similarly, the software may transition, as indicated at 36, from the connected state 20 to the disconnected state 18 when a keep alive response 38 is not received in response to a query made by the software or in case of a time out 32. When the system 10 has transitioned to the disconnected state 18, applications that may wish to use the link 12 may be notified that the link has been lost.--